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Friends of Christ Church Cathedral NEWS

VOL. 15 NO. 1 JANUARY 1998 50P

Archbishop Walton Empey with Mrs Therese Wood, wife of the dean's surgeon, after the inner city carol service in December

Photograph: Valerie Jones

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Minimum Subscriptions: Individual - £5 • Family - £10.00 • Overseas - $10 • Friends are asked to give more if they can.

EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES

February-April 1998

Sunday	25 January	3.30 pm	Installation of New Canons *Revd Paul Colton* *Revd John Clarke* *Revd David Moynan* Installation of Priest Vicar *Revd Darren McFarland*
Sunday	1 February	8.00 pm	The Candlemas Procession
Monday	2 February	1.15 pm	Christ Church Lecture Series *(The Victorian Cathedral)*
Monday	9 February	1.15 pm	Christ Church Lecture Series
Monday	16 February	1.15 pm	Christ Church Lecture Series
Tuesday	17 February	8.00 pm	Christina Noble Children's Foundation *Talk given by Christina Noble*
Monday	23 February	1.15 pm	Christ Church Lecture Series
Wednesday *Ash Wednesday*	25 February	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Monday	23 March	10.00 am & 2.00 pm	Feis Ceoil Competition - Organ
Tuesday	24 March	8.00 pm	Joe Coady Memorial Lecture *Dr Peter Harbison*
Wednesday	25 March	10.00 am & 2.00 pm	Feis Ceoil Competition - Organ
Friday	27 March	1.15 pm	Lunchtime Concert *Fettes College*
Sunday *Palm Sunday*	5 April	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist *Procession, Blessing and Distribution of Palm*
HOLY WEEK			
Thursday *Maundy Thursday*	9 April	12.00 pm 8.00 pm	Chrism Eucharist *Blessing of the Holy Oil* Sung Eucharist *Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altars*
Friday *Good Friday*	10 April	3.30 pm	Evensong *Proclamation of the Cross*
Saturday *Easter Eve*	11 April	9.00 pm	Eucharist of the Resurrection *The Easter Vigil*
Sunday *Easter Day*	12 April	11.00 am	Festival Sung Eucharist *Preacher: The Most Reverend Walton Empey, Archbishop of Dublin*

Christ Church Cathedral Dublin

From The Dean of Christ Church
The Deanery, Saint Werburgh Street, Dublin 8, Ireland

Telephones: (01 or ISTD +353 1):
Deanery 478 1797; *Facsimile* 475 3442

January 1998

Dear Friends of Christ Church,

Perhaps a little self-indulgently I am taking this opportunity to tell you a little about myself rather than what is happening in the cathedral. I know you will understand.

29 days after my heart transplant operation in the splendid care of the Mater Hospital surgeons and nurses I returned home to the deanery. Tender loving home care under Patricia Bray surely cannot be better anywhere! I am now in what the hospital calls "barrier convalescence". During the next month or so while my natural immune system is medically lowered to prevent rejection of the new heart, I have to be careful against all infections however slight they may appear. Sadly, it means that visitation still has to be restricted. I hope, however to be at the cathedral most Sunday mornings and thus to see many of you, albeit briefly.

My thanks to the archbishop for his compassionate caring both before and during my stay in hospital, to my clergy and lay friends and Friends and to the (literally) hundreds who sent cards, letters and flowers - not to mention telephone calls from all over the world. These were all a source of great comfort. In my present condition it would be simply impossible to answer them individually so I hope *Friends* will accept this as my thank you to them.

Naturally my inexpressible thanks go to the family who generously offered the heart of their loved one for the benefit of another. I shall never know who they are - nor they who it was received that heart - but I shall remember them in my prayers for the rest of my days.

To all in the cathedral, both clergy and laity, who have so well maintained our daily life and worship since my sick leave began in September, and to the Friends committee who work so hard on our behalf during the year, I express my own gratitude and that of the regular congregation. May God bless you all.

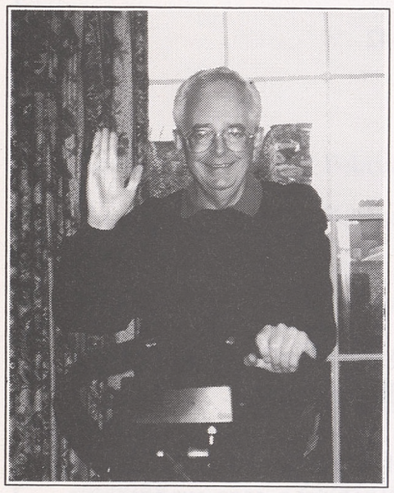
Very sincerely,

John Paterson.

From The Dean of Christ Church, the Very Reverend John Paterson
Telephone 01 478 1797; *Facsimile* 01 475 3442

GOOD NEWS!

There is a great supply of good news for the first 1998 issue of the Newsletter. First and foremost there is the Dean's successful heart transplant and speedy convalescence. The operation took place in the first part of December so extra joy was added to our celebration of Christmas.



The Dean

There are also other reasons to celebrate. The Christmas Carols CD/cassette was enormously popular and Esso stations in Dublin sold out in a couple of weeks. Into the New Year, motorists were travelling to such far-flung places as Mullingar to obtain a CD or cassette with their petrol! It is good to know that so many people have heard the choir for the first time and have been so enthusiastic; much better, that some of them attended one or more services in the cathedral over Christmas. It is always our hope that those who are drawn to the cathedral by the excellence of the music find that the liturgy and warmth of fellowship encourages them to return. In this regard, at the beginning of a new year, we record thanks to those who 'man' the desk for services, sidespersons and the Friends who organise coffee in the crypt after the Sunday Eucharist, for these are vital aspects of our welcome to regular worshipper and visitor alike.

INNER CITY CAROL SERVICE

It was wonderful to have such a large attendance at the Lunchtime Carol Service on the Thursday before Christmas. As always, the bells welcomed those who came to the cathedral, some with only a short lunch break, others with more time to linger. With the readings and through the beauty of the music, one sensed the coming of Christmas.

Mr Maurice Neligan, on behalf of the Mater Hospital Cardiac Surgical Foundation, addressed the congregation and the retiring collection, with subsequent donations, realised the sum of £2000, indeed a very worthwhile contribution to the work of the Foundation.

Irene Drew

MODEL OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Down in the crypt, behind a wire cage where the cat and rat live (mummified of course), a model of the Cathedral and Synod Hall made of cardboard stood covered in dust for over a hundred years. It is reckoned that this was made when G. E. Street (architect of the restoration 1878) was restoring the Cathedral.

When I worked in the Cathedral – bringing schools and tours around the crypt – I always pointed out this model covered in dust: the detail of this model fascinated me. Years went by. Last year at an Archives Committee I suggested that this model be cleaned and parts of the roof etc, be stuck back together again.

I contacted the Paperworks (studio for paper preservation & conservation). The model was carefully transported from the Cathedral to the Paperworks on a wet and windy day. It took six to eight weeks to clean and to repair the model. Then I thought "When the model is cleaned - what are we going to do with it ? It can't go back down to the crypt." So a glass case was especially made for the model. At the moment it is in the Chapter Room. When all electric work is finished, we will find a new home for it in the Cathedral. This expensive work could not have been carried out without the finance from the Friends of the Cathedral - I would like to thank the Friends Committee for supporting this project.

Lesley Rue

PRESIDENT ATTENDS SPECIAL WARRINGTON SERVICE

The President, Mrs Mary McAleese, paid her first official visit to Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday 7 December. The visit was part of a plan to attend services in churches of different denominations at the beginning of her term of office. The occasion was a special service to mark the link between Warrington and Dublin and the Warrington Male Voice Choir joined the Cathedral choir for the service.

The special preacher was Terry Waite, Church of England lay reader and former hostage in Beirut, who is patron of the Warrington Male Voice Choir. The Archbishop of Dublin was the celebrant at the Eucharist.

Among those accompanying the choir were the Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Roy Humphries, with the Mayoress, Mrs Jean Humphries, and the MP for Tatton, Mr Martin Bell. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor John Stafford, was also present.

Since the Warrington bombing on 20 March 1993, which destroyed the centre of the Cheshire town and claimed the lives of two young boys, Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, tremendous efforts have been made by the people of Warrington to foster peace and reconciliation in Ireland. The weekend visit by the choir, organised by the Irish Peace Initiative, was part of this process.

President Mary McAleese greeting members of the Warrington Male Voice Choir

The President was met on arrival by the Precentor, Canon John Bartlett, and Archdeacon Brian Snow acted as her chaplain. Dean John Paterson attended the service only a few days before his heart transplant operation. President McAleese, who was accompanied to the service by her husband and two daughters, joined members of the congregation for tea afterwards.

The President (with her husband and daughters) stands with her chaplain, Archdeacon Brian Snow, during the service

Photographs: Valerie Jones

BATH & WELLS WEEK-END

'A fantastic four days,' 'a wonderful weekend,' 'it couldn't have been better,' -judging from the happy recollections of those who were on the Friends' pilgrimage to Bath and Wells in October last, it was another resounding success. Instead of asking one person to write an account, this year I spoke to many of the participants. All without exception spoke in glowing terms of Terence Read's organisation. 'Amazing' 'perfect', 'superb', were superlatives that instantly came to mind and I am very happy to record them as a small token of the Friends' thanks to Terence for his sustained and inspired efforts on our behalf. It is, as some remarked, no small task to prepare and lead a 4-day trip, year after year. *Ad multos annos!*

Not surprisingly, the highlight of the weekend was the Sung Eucharist in Wells Cathedral on the Sunday morning, which was the appropriate follow-up to a wonderful tour of the cathedral. It was felt that the guides were particularly welcoming and good. Perhaps we can work towards a rota of guides in Christ Church Cathedral? Many spent a lot of time in the excellent cathedral restaurant and the shop!

'The open bus tour of Bath was great.'
'I loved the child's birthday cake done in plants that we saw in one of the parks.'
'We all went mad on the shopping.'
'The climbing clock at Wells was most impressive.'
'The choir, with the boys, was beautiful but it's hard to beat our own.'
'I really appreciated the short service which Herbie Whyte took at Glastonbury.'
'It was raining hard but it didn't matter.'

Many of those to whom I spoke are hardy annuals, for whom the camaraderie of a friendly and familiar group is an important feature. Whether travelling as singles or couples, everybody feels included in the fun of the Christ Church pilgrimage.

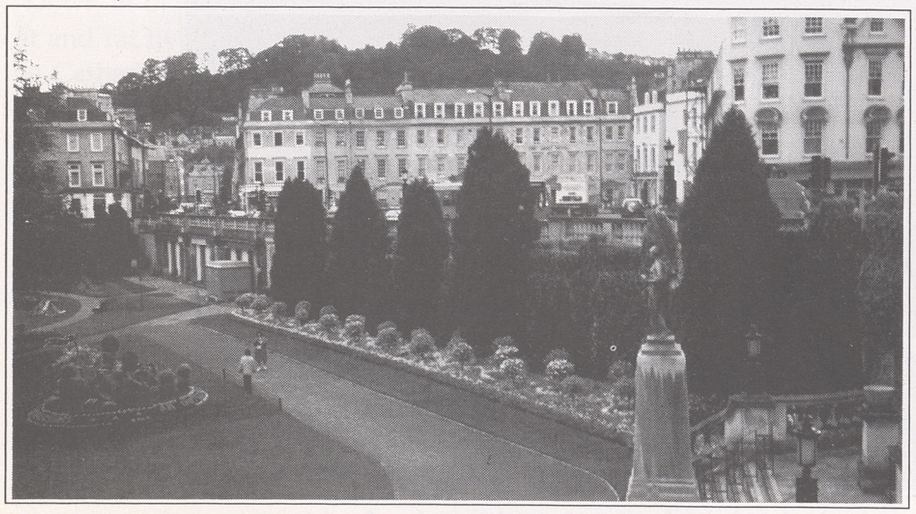
The programme for the Bath & Wells week-end is printed below.

Friday 10th

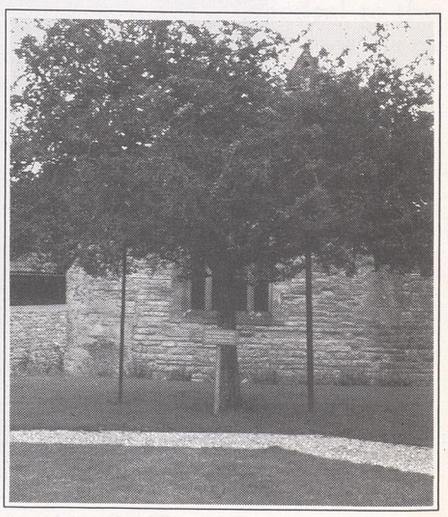
The Aer Lingus flight leaves Dublin at 7.50 a.m. Transfer by coach to the Hilton Hotel, Bath. The day is free to explore one to Europe's most beautiful cities. Bath Abbey, the Roman Baths and Pump Room, Pulteney Bridge, and the elegant Milsom Street shopping are are all less than five minutes walk from the hotel. The Royal Crescent and Circus, the Assembly Rooms & Museum of Costume, etc are also within easy reach. Founded in Roman times, but most famous for its 18th century Georgian buildings laid out in tiered ranks of crescents, parades and squares of honey-coloured stone along the valley of the river Avon, Bath is a unique architectural gem. Dinner may be taken in the hotel or in one of many excellent restaurants in the city, such as Popjoys – once the home of Beau Nash, who did so much to establish Bath as the centre of fashion in the first half of the 18th century.

Saturday 11th

In the morning we go by coach to Wells, the smallest city in England. We will be welcomed by the Friends of Wells Cathedral and have a conducted tour. There is a lunch-time organ recital in the cathedral. The remainder of the day is free to explore the city and the bustle of the Saturday market. In the evening, our coach takes us to the small town of Street to settle into The Wessex Hotel.



The Park in Bath, Friday October 10th 1997

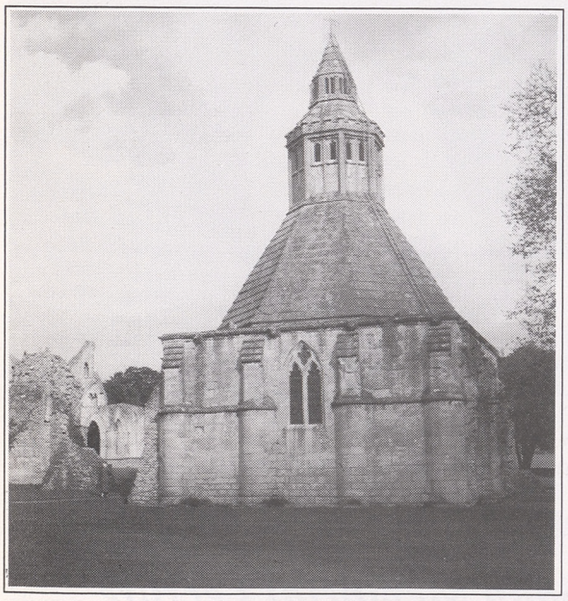


The Hawthorn Tree at Glastonbury Abbey

Photographs: Jo Wilkinson

Wells

A 'monk' of Glastonbury Abbey, showing typical fare on the table of the Abbot's kitchen



The Abbot's kitchen at Glastonbury

The great west elevation of Wells Cathedral

The group at the west end of Wells Cathedral

Photographs: David & Janet Bockett

Sunday 12th

Sung Eucharist in Wells Cathedral is followed by lunch in the cathedral refectory in the west cloister. In the afternoon we visit Glastonbury Abbey. Here fact and fiction, history and legend intermingle. Is this the 'isle of Avalon' at the centre of ancient leylines, routes of spiritual energy? Did Joseph of Arimathea visit this place with the boy Jesus and build the first church of wattle and daub? Was the Holy Grail later buried with Joseph on Chalice Hill? Does the grave in the great nave really contain the bones of King Arthur and his Queen Guinevere? Why is the most ancient extant chapel on the site dedicated to St. Patrick? Does the Glastonbury thorn – a native of Syria, whose present descendent blossoms at Christmas and in Spring, trace its origin to Joseph's staff? You many not find the answers to these questions, but it is likely the noble ruins of one of the greatest monasteries of medieval England will leave a lasting impression of the faith and confidence of its founders and the eternal truths they avowed.

Monday 13th

After an early opportunity to visit the 'shopping experience' comprised in Clarke's Village, we will visit Longleat House – home of the Marquess of Bath. In the afternoon, depending on weather, we may include a visit to Stonehenge on our way back to Bristol Airport for a 20.50 departure to Dublin.

Dinner at the Hilton Hotel, Bath, Friday 10th October 1997
Stephen & Hazel Burleigh, Dorothy Pennefather, Stella Bell, Jo Wilkinson, Beryl Gillis & Beulah Landy

Photograph: Jo Wilkinson

Dr. Peter Harbison to give Joe Coady Memorial Lecture

24 March 1998 at 8.00 p.m.

Beranger's Eighteenth-Century Watercolours of Dublin City and County will be the subject of the illustrated 1998 Joe Coady Memorial Lecture to be given by Dr Peter Harbison in the Cathedral Music Room on Tuesday, 24 March 1998 at 8.00 p.m.

Gabriel Beranger (c. 1730-1817) was an artist of French Huguenot extraction, born in Holland, who spent most of his life in Dublin practising and teaching art and for a time selling prints in George's Street. He was involved with Col. William Burton Conyngham in the work of the Hibernian Antiquarian Society (1779-83) and most of his surviving work illustrates Irish antiquities, particularly churches and castles - including one drawing of the old west end of Christ Church Cathedral. Because all of his drawings were in private collections (partially retained by his own family) they were largely forgotten after his death until Sir William Wilde, father of Oscar, brought him to public attention through a series of articles written in the 1870s and later gathered into a book with the title *Memoir of Gabriel Beranger and his labours in the cause of Irish art and antiquities from 1760 to 1780* (Dublin, 1880).

More than a century later, Dr Peter Harbison published another volume devoted to Beranger, illustrating a selection of his drawings in an album in the Royal Irish Academy. Dr Harbison tells us that he hopes to publish the companion volume in the National Library when a generous sponsor can be found.

Dr Harbison, who is currently a Council member of the Royal Irish Academy and its Honorary Academic Editor, worked with Bord Fáilte as archaeologist and later as editor of *Ireland of the Welcomes* magazine, and has published many books on Irish antiquities, including high crosses as well as on pilgrimage in Ireland. The Friends' Committee, which organises the Joe Coady Memorial Lecture, is delighted that Dr Harbison has agreed to give this illustrated talk and looks forward very much to what will be a most interesting and entertaining evening.

THE "PRESENCE" OF CHRIST

A sermon preached by Dean John Paterson at the Sung Eucharist on Sunday 17 August 1997

One of the odder customs of Christ Church Cathedral is the manner of arranging the preaching rota. The eighteen members of the chapter meet solemnly on the 14th of November, the feast of Saint Laurence O'Toole, who built the present cathedral in the year 1180; they then proceed to choose the two occasions in the year on which they'll preach. Starting with the precentor each chooses a Sunday in the first six months of the year and then one in the second half. The gaps remaining are filled in with preachers for special occasions and then, all else failing, the dean takes up the remainder.

Two Sundays ago the system enabled me to preach on the importance of receiving the Eucharist and making it show what it means in our lives. The gospel today is from John 6, where Christ tells us that he is the bread of life - a sustaining life-giving presence that will enable us to be capable of attempting to live a truly Christian life.

Yet the very word "presence" is almost a minefield in Christian theology. More battles down the centuries have been fought on the manner of *how* Christ can be present in the sacrament than on almost any other subject. Do we eat and drink Christ's human flesh and blood? Or is it his resurrected and ascended body and blood? Is it something spiritual, a sort of "let's pretend"? So many diverse options have been held – in past generations the more extreme catholic position over-emphasizing the spiritual. Anglicans, as so often, find it necessary to counsel caution to both and to say "Yes - but".

You'll remember how, at the Last Supper, Christ gave thanks to God, took the bread and wine and said, "This is my body, this is my blood". It was a meal shared among Jewish friends – and a Jewish meal is always as much a religious as a social occasion. Saying grace at a Jewish meal has never been the perfunctory act it can sometimes be in Christian homes. The grace would have been repeated over several dishes during the meal. The difference was that, at this meal, the Last Supper, Jesus said these other words in addition to the thanksgiving. And then he told them "Do this in remembrance of me".

For most Christians *remembering* means thinking back to some event in the past – perhaps how Aunt Jane gave me a half-crown for my birthday. And some of those present won't even remember what a half-crown was! For the devout Jew this would have been no serious act of remembering. No religious group has *remembered* more of its history than have the Jewish people. And not in the sense of *thinking into the past*. In every event, every meal, the Jewish people remember the event as present reality. Once more the stones of Jericho are real; once more the Passover meal is celebrated as a reality of this contemporary age and today's Jewish people make their way through the Red Sea. And once more God too remembers his covenant with his people.

The same ought to be true of Christians as we celebrate the Eucharist. The events of the Upper Room become a present reality for us. Christ is the celebrant of today's Eucharist as he was at the Last Supper. In the Eucharist we have a saving life-giving encounter with the risen Lord. As we *remember* we recall in prayer before God the Father the saving acts of his Son and we do so because God is faithful to his own promises. And as God *remembers* he turns action into reality and meets us face to face. The life-giving encounter is what we call the *Real Presence* of Christ in the sacrament.

What then is the relation between the outward sign of bread and wine and the inward gift of the body and blood?

Anglicans have difficulties over precise definitions – principally because precise definitions always seem to end up excluding people rather than embracing them. This, of course, means that there will inevitably be Anglicans who hold extreme views at either end of the spectrum. Some will base their theory of the presence on a metaphysical and philosophical belief that seems outdated in today's world. Others, that their own faith creates the presence and that without their own faith there would be no presence.

More today would, I think, hold to the ancient common tradition of the Church and to the Anglican tradition of the seventeenth century, so ably propagated by Henry McAdoo, a former archbishop of Dublin. The presence of Christ is conveyed by the bread and wine to the faithful communicant. Thus we receive Christ in answer to the prayer of the Church and in fulfilment of his promise. The presence, then, isn't only in the devout communicant but actually also in the consecrated elements themselves. As to *how* this happens we express agnosticism. That it *does* happen and that it isn't *created* by our faith, we affirm as truth. Queen Elizabeth I is said to have summed it up in admirable theology, even if rather indifferent poetry:

Christ was the Word that spake it:
He took the bread and brake it:
And what his word doth make it:
That I believe and take it.

In the gospel Christ is saying to us, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh".

Thus invited we come to feast at his table, not because we are good people, but because we are forgiven sinners. We come, as we come to a doctor, not because we are well but because we are sick. We come, not because we've got it all together, but because God's got it all together and has invited us to join him. We come, not because our hands are full of self-importance, or self-righteousness, but because they're empty and waiting to receive his love, his body and blood, his very self.

Which of us, in response to such an invitation cannot but give testimony to God's love and say: "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you. Speak but the word and I shall be healed".

CHRIST CHURCH LECTURE SERIES

A lecture series will take place at
Christ Church Cathedral Dublin in February 1998.

The subject of the series will be
The Victorian Cathedral - Christ Church in the nineteenth century.

These are intended to be popular and illustrated lectures, which will take place at lunchtime on Mondays 2, 9, 16 & 23 February, in the crypt of the cathedral, beginning at 1.15pm.

Two of the speakers well known to visitors to the cathedral are **Kenneth Milne** and **Andrew Johnstone.**

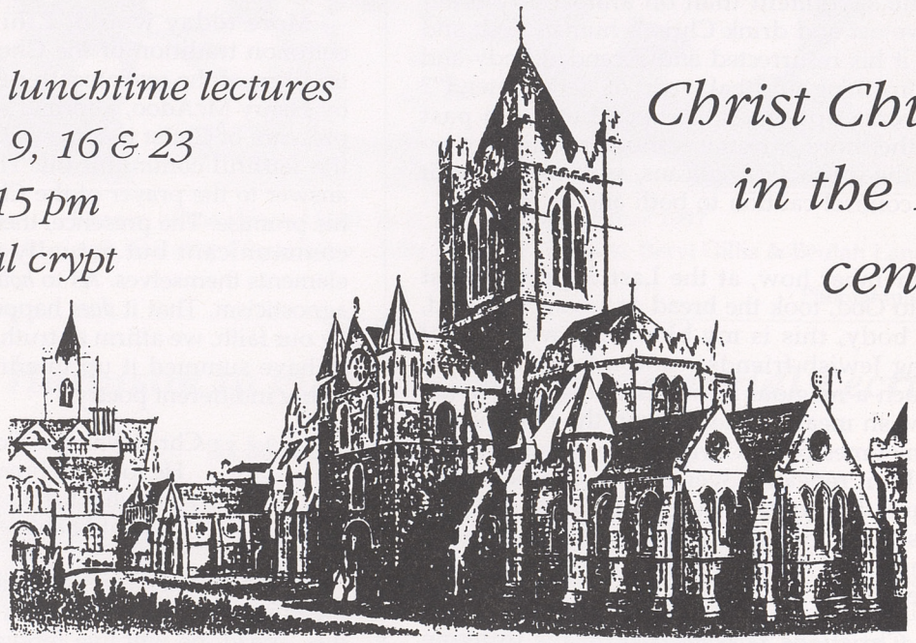
Dr Milne is the Church of Ireland historiographer and also the keeper of the archives at Christ Church. In a lecture entitled 'Church and State - Christ Church & the Church of Ireland', he will speak on the changes occurring in the Church of Ireland in the nineteenth century: the Church Temporalities Act in 1833 and the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871, focusing particularly on their effect on the cathedral.

Andrew Johnstone is a lecturer in music at Trinity College and also assistant organist at the cathedral. He proposes to give an illustrated talk on the less redeeming features of Victorian music. Taking examples from composers associated with the cathedral music scene of the time, this promises to be quite an enlightening delivery!

THE VICTORIAN CATHEDRAL:

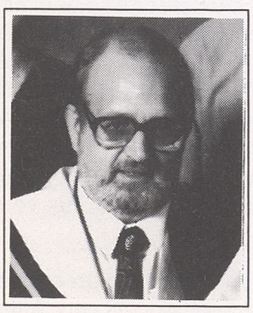
A series of four lunchtime lectures on Mondays 2, 9, 16 & 23 February at 1.15 pm in the cathedral crypt

Christ Church in the 19th century



Admission Free

HONOUR FOR BELLRINGER



David Taylor, one of the cathedral's friends, was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths on November 11, 1997. The Ancient Society is a society of bellringers which was established in 1637 and is closely associated with St Paul's Cathedral in London. David was proposed by Charles J. Reede of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and seconded by the Revd Brooke Kingsmill-Lunn.

A past-chorister, boy and man, of Christ Church, David was taught to ring on the cathedral bells by the late E.C. (Ted) Cathalin. His association with Christ Church goes back to 1957 when he entered the cathedral school as a choir probationer. On October 24th 1997 Dublin City University conferred on David an M.A. in Journalism.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIRS

The Christmas season began on 9th December for the choirs this year, with a major concert for ALONE at the RDS. This is the second year running that we have contributed our services for this very worthwhile charity and it was a pleasure to combine with the girls' choir in an evening of carols and international Christmas music. Ian Fox acted as compère at this well-attended event which should have raised a considerable amount towards the work of ALONE.

The annual inner-city lunch time carol service took place on Thursday 18th December with the Archbishop and full choir in residence and a capacity congregation. It is gratifying to note the increase in attendance from year to year at special occasions such as this service which has become a key event in the local community, apart from its valuable fund-raising rôle for selected charities. This year's collection went to a particularly significant and topical organisation in the light of our Dean's recent successful operation - the Mater Hospital Cardiac Surgical Foundation. Mr Maurice Neligan, one of the chief surgeons at the Mater, spoke about the work of the foundation in a brief address.

RTE FM3 has placed the annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols in its yearly calendar, and it was broadcast live on Monday 22nd December from the cathedral. There was great demand for tickets for the reserved area, as this very special occasion continues to attract more and more people each year. The choir had put in a lot of work as always, and the music was quite exceptional, including as it did some unusual and very moving works by Rachmaninoff, Kodály, and by our superb assistant organist, Andrew Johnstone. Then there were the old favourites such as Harold Darke's *In the bleak midwinter*, and Elizabeth Poston's *Jesus Christ, the apple tree*, which never lose their potency despite repetition. The Archbishop spoke generously of the musical input afterwards to the assembled choir and clergy, thanking Mark Duley particularly for his planning and work.

The Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve was as packed as it always is, and this year's work was the dramatic and evocative *Messe Solennelle* by Jean Langlais, which we performed in Chartres during our summer tour. The choir is much at home with Langlais' musical language, and there was a wonderfully mysterious atmosphere during the mass. The service began with an arrangement of Franz Gruber's *Stille Nacht* for two women's voices, accompanied by guitar, sung from the Lady Chapel to distant and magical effect.

Finally Christmas Day itself, and the music was Mozart's Kronungsmesse - so appropriate for this service. This mass is such a jubilant work, and the cathedral rang with that exuberance peculiar to singers who have an excellent Christmas dinner and a hard-earned two week recess ahead!

RECORDINGS

The first commercial CD of the choir was finally released on 10th December, causing much relief among those in whose Christmas shopping this disc was to play an important rôle. There was a private launch in the crypt of the cathedral on 16th December, at which the choir sang and the Director of Music, Mark Duley, spoke a few words. The occasion was an historic one, as this is the first commercial label the choir has ever recorded with. We were only sorry that the Dean could not be there, as his support through this and other ambitious projects has been a source of great encouragement. Entitled *The Complete Morning and*

The Precentor, Canon John Bartlett, discussing the new CD with Mark Duley and Helen Roycroft

Evening Services and Offices for Holy Communion of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (Vol.3), the CD is on the Priory label, and will also be available on cassette tape within the next month or so. Sales are going very well so far, and the feed-back has been tremendous. This is what so many of our supporters have waited for for so long - a well-produced, professional recording of the choir in its own unique acoustic. The recording will be in major record stores world-wide, which is an exciting prospect, as it means that on future tours abroad, audiences may already be familiar with our name. The CD is available at the cathedral, in the APCK Bookshop, The C. of I. Resource Centre in Rathmines, St. Paul Book and Media Centre in Clarendon St., and soon in HMV, Grafton St. and Tower Records. *Dublinia* is also interested in carrying it.

The choir has now recorded a second disc with Priory. This took place over a weekend last November in the cathedral, and is part of Priory's *Great Cathedral Anthems* series. All of the works chosen for this recording are by Irish composers, or composers with an Irish connection, and it is a delightful collection. We hope to see this new disc released by next autumn. The Priory producers are very satisfied with the work we have done to date, and there are already further plans in the pipeline.

Something which took many people by surprise was the Esso recording, *Carols from Christ Church Cathedral*. This was a private recording which the choir undertook last June. Mark Duley had agreed with the producer that the collection of carols, many of which are arranged by Andrew Johnstone, would be used as corporate gifts at Christmas by whichever big company was interested. As it turned out, Esso was more than interested, and used the recording in a less-than-private way which brought huge publicity to the choir and the cathedral, and it seems, a great deal of pleasure to many, many people around the country. A pity it coincided with the release of the Stanford CD, but in the end I suppose the majority of people who were delighted to find themselves enjoying the carols may not ever have heard the choir before. The more people who realise the level of the musical tradition at Christ Church, the better for the future of the cathedral's music foundation. There were reports from friends, trying to purchase the carols for gifts to family abroad, that many Esso stations were completely sold out of the recordings.

FILM

Not content with regular broadcasts and recordings, both private and commercial, the choir has recently entered into the realm of film-music! And not just any film, but the new Jim Sheridan movie (he of *My left foot, In the name of the Father* fame), which was released in New York on 31st December, so that it would make it into the 1997 Oscar nominations category. Entitled *The Boxer*, the film is very loosely based on the life of Barry McGuigan, and is set in troubled Belfast, although filmed in Sheridan's beloved East Wall in Dublin. As with the two previously mentioned Sheridan films, Daniel Day-Lewis takes the lead rôle, and two Dublin musicians who wrote some of the songs for *In the name of the Father* - Gavin Friday and Maurice Roycroft - have written the entire sound-track for *The Boxer*. The choir was approached to perform some rather apocalyptic-sounding music, which we duly did in Windmill Lane. With the sound-engineering techniques used in this production, the end-result is quite breath-taking, and I can thoroughly recommend this film even though we only feature for a short scene! The choir does get its name in the credits at the end of course - more grist to the publicity mill! *The Boxer* opens in Dublin at the beginning of February.

CATHEDRAL GIRLS' CHOIR

The girls are becoming veterans at public appearances, as they showed to their credit in this year's RDS concert. Now that they sing their own weekly evensong on Wednesdays at 6pm, they have slipped into the routine of musical and liturgical life at the cathedral and take big events in their stride. This year the girls gave the main choir a welcome break by singing at the Epiphany service on 6th January. They performed Archer's *Christ Church Mass*, and it was really beautiful. Mark Duley is holding this year's voice trials in February, so any budding young singers can get in touch with him at the cathedral. Some exciting news is that the girls are taking their first weekend trip away, travelling to Derry on March 14th/15th to sing in St Eugene's and St Columb's Cathedrals. And so we see that it is not only the main choir which spreads the word about Christ Church.

CANDLEMAS

The final feast of Christmas takes place in the cathedral this year on Sunday 1st February at 8pm. The full choir will be in residence for this beautiful ceremony which illustrates the theme of light. As always there will be a candlelit procession at the end of the celebration, and the music will be carefully selected to enhance the unique atmosphere. We hope to see a full cathedral to help make Candlemas even more memorable.

HELEN ROYCROFT

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Archives Committee has been very active in the last few months despite the state of its area in the cathedral! The rewiring and relighting has necessitated considerable shuffling of shelves, filing cabinets, etc. and it will be a great relief to see the return of normality. As well as this, we are fairly close to the hole in the crypt where both the heating system and the new electricity cabling have been brought in, so the library and archives has a slightly '60s space-age feel to it, as everything is covered in plastic sheeting.

Cataloguing work continues thanks to Noel Houlden's efforts and enquiries of an archival nature are becoming more common. Generally correspondence relates to genealogy or to some musical connection with the cathedral. Two were particularly interesting: Sir Christopher Coote, whose ancestors included two of his namesakes who were buried in the cathedral, the 1st and 2nd Earls of Mountrath, and another from Dott.ssa Maria Di Maio enquiring about Michele Esposito, sometime teacher at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.

As for conservation, two other articles in this issue go into considerable detail outlining the work that has been carried out on the Victorian model of the cathedral and old synod hall and also the Jacobean tabernacle. Both have lain in the crypt, dusty and ignored, for many years and it is a delight to see them in such improved condition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have left into the cathedral old copies of the *Church Review or Church of Ireland Gazette,* as well as articles or books of interest. All contribute to a lively archive, so keep them coming in!

One thesis of interest, based on the material held in the RCB Library, is an MA thesis by Carol Cunningham entitled 'Selected eighteenth century anthems by composers at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin'. The choir recently recorded one of the pieces by Richard Woodward, which she typeset as part of her thesis, and it will hopefully appear on the next choir CD - 'Great Irish Cathedral Anthems'.

Finally, some of you may remember a lecture series in October and November on the Augustinian canons regular. Somewhat to my surprise, there was enormous interest in what might have been seen as a rather stuffy subject. There is clearly a popular interest in the cathedral's history and, further to this, the Archives Committee is hoping to publish the texts of the lectures. Another series is planned for February called *The Victorian Cathedral - Christ Church in the 19th century,* .as you may have read elsewhere in this issue. We hope you will be able to get to some of these Monday lectures, which have been conveniently arranged for lunchtimes to capture as many of those bored office workers in the city centre as possible!

Stuart Kinsella (Hon. Secretary, Archives Committee)

THE TABERNACLE

As early as the fifth meeting of the then Archives Advisory Committee in April 1994, there had been an item on the agenda dealing with the tabernacle and its associated candlesticks.

Since then, enquiries were made with the National Museum, who had made brief drawings of the items at some stage, with TCD's Department of the History of Art, with a Polish expert and with the Victorian & Albert Museum in London. Other enquiries were sent to Reading University, St Paul's Cathedral, London, where a fine baldacchino is in much the same style as the tabernacle, and the National Archives. Even Sotheby's and Christie's auctioneers were considered!

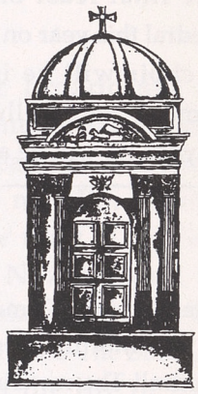
Along the way, considerable research went into the tabernacle, to the extent that those people contacted were given what was effectively a cv, complete with photographs. From the information assembled (along with help from Dr Milne who is covering this period for the cathedral history project), I was able to send a detailed letter to History Ireland in answer to a query

of a certain Mr Richard Roche. He was interested in finding out more details about Alexius Stafford, the Roman Catholic priest who would have celebrated Mass in 1689/90 for James II (under whose auspices the tabernacle was commissioned). For those who are interested, it is printed in their issue of Winter 1996.

It was not, however, until June 1996 that we discovered a person with sufficient expertise to deal with the tabernacle. This was Mr Fergus Purdy of (coincidentally) Cathedral Workshops in Belfast. On 31 January 1997, it left the cathedral for the first time in over 300 years, crossing the Boyne river on its way to Belfast. I wonder what Customs would have thought?

As reported in the last Newsletter, Dr Milne and I visited the workshop in Belfast in August to decide on a critical stage of the work - restoration or conservation. It has been gloriously refurbished and was brought back on the eve of Christmas Eve last.

It has been established now, without any doubt, that it is an authentic piece. After a frightening start, when the dome collapsed on removal, the tabernacle has been cleaned, re-glued and generally consolidated. Great care has been taken to leave the surviving sections of gesso or gold decoration in place and some of the loose sections have been reattached. It was confirmed that it was restored, to some extent, by the Victorians, and also that it may well have been constructed in England before being brought to Dublin.



Although the Archives Committee have not yet decided where the tabernacle will be displayed, I include an artist's impression here of what it may have looked like. Once it is on display, do come in and have a look at it.

I also mentioned at the beginning of this article that the tabernacle is associated with two candlesticks. Well, by a remarkable coincidence, the editor of 'The Pewter Collectors' Club of America, Inc.' visited the cathedral recently, and has expressed great interest in them. No doubt the Archives Committee will be able to report news of yet another project in the next issue!

Stuart Kinsella, (Hon. Secretary, Archives Committee)

CHRIST CHURCH 2000 APPEAL

You may already have heard that the dean launched this appeal in June 1997. It is a major initiative designed to meet the cost of re-wiring, which is now almost complete, repair to stonework, repair to stained glass, development of the crypt and funding the Music Department.

You will be glad to hear that important progress has been made. For example, the Friends have already promised a substantial donation which will be linked to the restoration of the stained glass windows.

However, the Appeal has some way to go. The parishes of the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough are being asked to support it and we are confident that our Friends throughout the parishes will be particularly keen to play their part.

More news of the Appeal and how you might help to support it will be available from parish sources in the near future.

BARNARDOS WALK FOR CHILDREN:

THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

The following article was sent to us in the autumn by our neighbours, Barnardos, and is included at the first opportunity. It may be too late to be of practical use but we urge anyone interested to contact Claire Moran anyway. We wish her and all involved in the project every success. - Ed.

Looking for a challenge? Then the **Barnardos Walk for Children in Costa Rica** could well be the thing for you. This unique opportunity to provide a better future for some of Irelands most vulnerable children is combined with an adventure which will spice the rest of your life.

My name is Claire Moran and I am working with **Barnardos** on this project. We are looking for volunteers who relish a challenge, to fundraise on our behalf. This will provide essential resources for the development and maintenance of **Barnardos** services. Theses include a Family Support Service, a Childrens' Bereavement Service, and lobbying the Government on issues such as child pornography, child abuse and child jail.

The adventure will unfold in **April '98 – The Walk in Costa Rica.** The 12 days spent in this magical land of cloudforests and volcanos will surely prove to be a trip which you will remember as the major experience of your life. Walking to the top of Poas, an active volcano, we will observe its two lakes on top, and at the Arenal volcano we will witness its red lava, which is visible every night. Finishing up, we are to visit the beach at Tortuguero to observe the unique night time laying of eggs of the fabled Green Sea Turtles on the edge of the Caribbean Sea.

If you think you may be interested in getting involved and would like to know more about **The Costa Rican Adventure '98** please do not hesitate to contact Claire Moran at 087 223 5613

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FRIENDS' TOUR

Advance notice for the Friends' visit to England.
The dates for your diary are:

Friday, 9 October to Monday, 12 October 1998.

The proposed destination is Winchester, with an additional visit to Chichester. The destination together with full details and booking form will be in the May 1998 Newsletter.

THE CATHEDRAL CLOCK

In the 1870 restoration the tower clock lost its face and became invisible. Many years later its fine eighteenth-century mechanism fell into disuse and so lost its voice as well. In the late 1960s an electro-hydraulic system was installed which rang the bells according to directions from an electric clock. Its mechanism also failed.

As reported in our last News, the enthusiasm of Mr Leslie Taylor, the tower ringing master, and the financial help of the Friends have resulted in the ancient clock and original ringing mechanism being restored. Though still faceless, its delicate chime and sonorous hour-strike now ring across the city. The work of restoration of the ancient mechanism was undertaken by the Co.Laois horologist Mr Julian Cosby. He has left us with a clock and chimes of which we are justly proud.

NEW STYLE MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND REVISIONS TO RECORDS

Starting in January 1998, every member of the Friends is to receive a Membership Card, in a new format, laminated on both sides, the same size as a Credit or Bank Card. Membership numbers will also be re-introduced at the same time, remaining constant from year to year.

There will be no need to sign the card, but it is recommended that it be brought to any Christ Church Cathedral or Friends event or function, where preference will increasingly be given in future to Friends, before members of the general public.

At the same time, all children under the age of 18, normally living at home, will be issued with a card under "Family Membership", where the appropriate subscription has been paid. This is £10 per family from January 1998.

All subscriptions received during 1998 will be deemed to be for the current calendar year and will expire on the 31st December.

The Honorary Membership Secretary requests that you kindly fill in and return the enclosed form, so that our records may be brought up-to-date and **each member may receive a membership card bearing the correct details.**

Thank you,

Carmel Mc Cann
Hon. Membership Secretary